Vision

**1.** **What is vision**? *(John 4:34 “Lift up your eyes and look on the fields”)*

1. Vision is seeing in our **mind** or **spirit** something that could happen in the **future**. *Sometimes we express our vision as a goal.*
2. For **Christians** vision is seeing and acting on what God wants to do.
3. God gives **leaders** and **staff** spiritual vision to know what God wants to do in our ministry.
4. Sometimes vision comes as a **burden** from God or divine guidance. *The Bible is full of people with God- given vision.*

# For example Moses in Egypt, Joshua at Jericho, Nehemiah at the Jerusalem walls

**2.** **Why is vision important**? What can vision do in our lives/ministries?

1. Vision gives us **direction** to do things we would not normally do and to go places we would not normally go. *Without direction, we continue doing only what we have always done. Direction gives us goals. Nehemiah vision to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem directed* his to leave his job in Persia and return to Jerusalem
2. Vision gives us **perseverance.**. **Nehemiah is our key example***.. He didn’t give up in spite of much opposition and many barriers. Our ideas, goals, and projects can easily fail, but God’s ideas, goals, and projects will succeed if we continue to follow Him.*
3. Vision gives us **passion**. *Paul had a passion to preach the gospel to new places, Rome. Romans 1:15 “I am eager to preach the gospel to you.”*
4. Vision **inspires** us to grow. Teen *Challenge, like any Christian organization, needs to grow over time. To do this, we need God’s vision for the future.* *You are part of that vision, that growth. There are lots of ways to grow, spiritually, numerically, educationally, facilities, effectiveness, character, etc.*
5. Vision gives us **hope**. *Abraham’s faith for a son gave him hope for the future and the fulfillment of all of God’s promises to him.* Romans 4:18 “Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’"

3. **How do we get God’s vision**?

1. **Seek** God for His will, His vision, and His direction. *After David Wilkerson began to spend time each night in prayer, God gave him a vision to help young men in New York. Let God show you what He sees for your life/ministry. My call to Detroit TC.*
2. Realize sometimes the vision comes in **small** **pieces**. *David Wilkerson first got a vision to help seven teen-agers on trial, then had a vision to minister to teen gangs, and finally received a vision to help drug addicts.*
3. The vision may come from different sources: the **Bible**, other **people**, times of **prayer**, or something in our **everyday** **lives**. *God used a picture and story in a magazine to direct David Wilkerson to go to New York to minister to young people. David Wilkerson’s mother and grandfather were used by God to clarify his vision to help young people in New York. God wants you to minister to lots of young people in New York, not just seven boys on trial for murder.*
4. Sometimes there is the **death** of a vision. *The vision is not fulfilled in the near future so we think it will not come to pass. There may be opposition or unforeseen difficulties. When the vision does come to pass everyone will know it was a miracle and God did it.*

4. **How does addiction affect vision**?

1. Addiction **destroys** hope. *An addict gives up whatever goals he has.*
2. An addict’s only vision is for more **drugs**.
3. Addiction limits vision to **today**. *How can he get more drugs now?* *He has no long-term goals except somehow to get free. But his addiction makes that goal seem impossible.*
4. Addiction destroys the vision of **family** and **friends**. *They lose hope for their son/daughter or friend.*

**5. How do we develop vision in our students?**

a. Instruct them that God has a **plan** for their lives. Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

1. Teach them the ways God **reveals** His will for our lives. Divine Guidance class: 8 principles, 8 challenges.
2. Give them **examples** from the Bible and today of God’s direction in the lives of His people.  *My life and Christian biographies. Ministry and testimonies of our graduates: Ken Pounders, Ken Graves, Steve Hill.*
3. Encourage them to ask God for His **vision**/**goals** for their lives.

# **Vision: seeing and acting on what God wants to** **do**.

**Example: Nehemiah – vision to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem**

**6. What is one goal for your ministry or personal life that you need to work on? How can you help fulfill the vision of your local Teen Challenge ministry?**

**Write down at least one idea.**